

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Robert Shimek
Sent: Fri 6/5/2015 8:09:36 PM
Subject: RE: May 19 Wild Rice Advisory Committee Meeting Summary and Doodle for next meeting in Duluth

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The discussion about wild rice waters is stupid. Anybody who has spent a reasonable amount of time hand harvesting wild rice knows that a lake may be full one year and sparse and thin the next due to a variety of conditions. Some lakes may be sparse and thin for 5 years than be full. I have seen lakes full one day and mostly empty the next day. Can the staffing and scientists of the MPCA tell us all why?

The point being I can wait for a year when a normally reasonable lake for whatever reason doesn't grow much rice one year and sacrifice it to industry and the mines. Or if there are 2 - 4 years of flooding that reduces the rice, a decent lake gets sacrifices to the mines. Most reasonable people recognize that one of the impacts of climate change is the more frequent occurrence of above normal precipitation events. This causes more frequent flooding. Months ago, I asked that the impacts of climate change be factored into our deliberations. There was some concurrence

that flooding at the mines and sewage treatment plants can cause the unintentional discharge of sulfate and other harmful chemicals and metals into the environment.

Who does long term monitoring to see what happens when the iron that mitigates the formation of sulfide is all sequestered up and there is nothing left to prevent the formation of sulfide? And who decides when the rice beds are filling in at an abnormally high rate with decaying plant life? It appears to me that we are looking for ways to get rid of naturally occurring stands of wild rice rather than find ways to save them or revitalize those already compromised. It appears to me that again, the MPCA is protecting the polluters rather than the common wealth of Minnesota which includes clean water and wild rice. On whose authority do we continue to pollute the waters and kill the wild rice?

We know what level sulfate discharge is protective of wild rice. Now, let's turn it all into a scientific equation and hope we are right? Has it occurred to anybody that this is the only place in the world where conditions are such that we can have wild rice? We are going into untested areas here and using one of our states most precious resources to conduct a new experiment to see if it works. Natural wild rice is also a huge economic asset for tribal people in Minnesota. If it was a huge economic asset for white people in Minnesota, we would not be having this conversation. We will not get a second chance at all this. Please feel free to remove me from this list anytime.

Bob Shimek

> Subject: Re: May 19 Wild Rice Advisory Committee Meeting Summary and Doodle for next meeting in Duluth

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> To: shannon.lotthammer@state.mn.us

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> FriendsCVSF also suggests there should be a period of time over which you observe lakes and documentation of seeding wild rice by DNR and others should accompany this. There is at least one lake on that list at with no history of wild rice, aggressive seeding and subsequent die off listed as a natural wild rice lake.

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> Kristin Larsen

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> > On Jun 5, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Lotthammer, Shannon (MPCA) wrote:

> >

> > Thank you all for your efforts to make sure our notes from the meetings are accurate. We do our very best to accurately summarize the conversation. Given that this is a summary, there may be times like the present when there is a concern that we did not capture a key point that one or more people made at the meeting. When that occurs, we welcome your feedback so we can update the summary (which we will do in this case; we will send out an updated version soon). We also welcome you all to share your notes from the meetings.

> >

> > We do not have the resources to record or develop a transcript of each meeting. The intent of these notes is to summarize the main topics of the conversation for the benefit of those who were not able to attend. Again, we welcome your feedback if we missed something, and of course we also welcome your comments about the proposed approach at or between meetings.

> >

> > Kind regards,

> > Shannon

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> > This is not the first example of “white-washing” of the facts in the MPCA meeting minutes. Participants should not have to “call out” the Agency to get real minutes. NAWO concurs with WaterLegacy and Mr. Anderson.

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> > On Jun 5, 2015, at 9:01 AM, Paula Maccabee > wrote:

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> > Good morning:

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> > WaterLegacy shares Len Anderson’s concerns that the meeting “summary” from the May 19 Wild Rice Advisory Committee provided with the email below poorly reflects the nature of the concerns regarding the definition of wild rice waters. From our perspective, the summary also omits or mis-states the many substantive concerns raised by Committee members regarding the proposed MPCA methodology for controlling sulfate effluent in those waters.

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> > WaterLegacy took detailed notes at the meeting on May 19, 2015. We will prepare and distribute a summary of the various concerns and issues that were raised by Committee members prior to the next Committee meeting.

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> > In the future, we would request that the MPCA either make a commitment to more completely and accurately record the comments of Committee members and public participants. Perhaps some method of recording proceedings would be appropriate if MPCA does not intend to provide a more accurate and candid record of the concerns raised.

> >

> > Sincerely yours,

> >

> > Paula Maccabee, Esq.

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> > Advocacy Director/Counsel for WaterLegacy

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> > From: "Engelking, Pat (MPCA)" >

> > Date: Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 11:41 AM

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> > Good afternoon,

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> > I am attaching a meeting summary from our last wild rice advisory committee in St. Paul on May 19. As part of our follow-up to that meeting, I have also attached a one-page summary that Ed Swain has developed that describes the project to model effects of various sulfide levels on wild rice population ecology.

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> > As we discussed at the meeting, we will try to focus our future meetings on broad topics so that we can have more substantial discussion. I will send an agenda later after a date is chosen but wanted to let you know our next meeting will focus on completion of the MPCA presentation and further discussion about the modeling and equation. We will also talk briefly about the monitoring the MPCA is conducting this summer. I am attaching a Doodle poll link with some candidate dates in July for our next meeting, which will be held at the MPCA's Duluth regional office in Canal Park. Please let me know your availability by responding to the Doodle poll by June 18.

Not Responsive

> >

> > Pat

> > Patricia Engelking

> > Environmental Analysis and Outcomes

> > Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

> > 651-757-2340

> > pat.engelking@state.mn.us